

"Arise, be not afraid. It is I. Be still, look, listen, and know that I am God."

Some one may ask what purpose God has in giving the visions. Is it for enjoyment and that forever? Let us see. Peter said, "Lord, this is good for us to be here. Let us make three tabernacles and abide here." Did you ever study the Master's answer? Never a word did he utter, but answered by example in these words, as he walked down the hill and many people met him. "It is well to abide here—it is heavenly to live up here on the mountain-top of glory, but down there—down in the valley—are people of unsound minds to cure; down there are crooked feet to straighten; down there are blind eyes to open; down there are deaf ears to unstop; down there are diseased bodies to heal; down there are wounded hearts to comfort." How similar to many of our experiences in life. I remember last year at conference the sunrise and sunset prayer-meetings were glorious. It seemed sometimes as tho heaven itself were opened and we could see the blessings descending. Did you not feel like praying, "Lord, let us abide here?" While walking home to our cottage one day, a sister said, "I am so happy here I wish I could stay always. O, if I only did not have to go back to my old every day life of service." Peter but expressed the longing of every Christian heart that has beat after His.

Ah yes! It would be glorious to always remain where his presence and glory are especially revealed, but he says as of old, "Down there—down in the valley—out in the world—are people, as it were, out of their right minds. Persuade them to set their affections on things above." Down there are feet straying in forbidden paths—bring them back and start them in the right way. Down there are blind eyes to be opened to the beautiful visions and experiences of the Christian's life. Down there are ears that are deaf to the pleadings of the Holy Spirit—help to unstop those ears by some work of thine. Down there are bodies diseased by sin. Heal them. Down there are hearts wounded and ready to break. Comfort them. Lift up your eyes, look on the fields: they are white already for the harvest." All about us lies the field of duty. We are saved to serve, not saved to dream and live in a complete heaven here on earth. Look! Can you not see and hear the calls coming every week from our Home and National Mission Boards for workers and money to sustain them? And who can easily shut their ears to the pleading call of India? Our college calls for help—shall we let it call in vain? Then oh that call from heathen lands, "Come to us with the light." The trouble is not a lack of calls but too many for the laborers. All over our land men and women sit in their pews, catching a passing vision of glory now and then as held up by the preacher, but seldom see the duty of ministry. We must see both. If we neglect the vision we are not fit for the service, and if we neglect service we can not enjoy the visions.

We have already seen that visions should inspire in us loving service as disciples. And how often they inspire us to nobler efforts. We meet with some difficulty, hesitate, until by some blessed vision we receive new energy, new zeal, new resolutions and new determination to carry out those resolutions. Many a time when courage was almost gone, as in the vision of Elisha and the servant of the king, has a vision of the omnipotent power of God, lead us to take heart again. These visions of Jesus should inspire in us humility. It should make us humble when we see our undone condition by being brought into view of the purity and nobleness of Christ's character. They will create a desire not only to be humble, but a seeking to be as the Master in all his traits of character: pure as he was pure in thought, word and deed; kind as he was kind to even those who were unkind to him; loving as he was loving to the most unlovable; patient as he was patient to the most trying; gentle as he was gentle to every living thing. Last of all they will inspire in us deeper consecration. If we once catch a vision of the glory that comes to a true Christian on earth and of the possibilities of the life to come, how can we do otherwise than resolve to give up ourselves and all we have?

Dear young people, have you had a vision of life's great mission? Is it clearly defined before you? Then do not refuse to follow it; you will make a failure of life if you do. How many enter into life blindly. They exist day after day—having nothing in view because of no convictions. Do you see in life only existence? Then lift up your eyes! Catch a vision of yourself fifty years from now if you go on living as at present. Some of you shrink from the sight and well you may. Then turn—catch another vision of what your life can be, then follow it. Seek a vision from God of what your life should be, because when you catch God's vision you will always find him responsible for the workings of his plan. Remember if he gives the plan he will provide in meeting all demands, and if he beckons forward he is responsible for the transport. If you come where two roads meet and know not which to take, stand still until you get that heavenly vision, then follow, come what may. Then in old age you can say with Paul: "I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision." Like Paul, it may lead you to suffer hunger, thirst, stripes, imprisonment, persecutions among false brethren, and even death, but remember the joy of the vision of the battle of life well fought, of a finished course, of the crown of righteousness, of the white robes, of the many mansions, and of eternal life with the blessed Jesus.

It is the duty of every one to live so near to God as to ever be able to behold the visions God has for us. And the nearer we live to God the clearer will be the vision because the fewer the obstructions.

However happy we may be in these seasons of joyful vision, we must never imagine such happiness will always continue. If we

wish to find a permanent abode of bliss we must look far higher than this world—higher than the highest mount of joy here—even to the heights of heaven. What Peter longed for God has promised to give us. Jesus at the transfiguration is an exact picture of Him as he stands in glory and as we shall see him in eternity.

Many will attend our approaching conference and there feast upon visions of the glory of his manifested power and perhaps of "Jesus only," but do not forget the valley of service lies all around the mountain-top of glory. Pray for such a vision of the field of duty that it may lead you into daily active service for him.

I entreat all not to be disobedient to the heavenly visions in life. May our vision of life's great mission as a servant of the most high God and of the blessedness of the inheritance of the promises of eternal life in the world to come, grow brighter and brighter, clearer and clearer, as we follow in the steps of duty that lead thru the valley of service up to the city of God where our eyes can feast upon his glorious presence forever and forever!

Roann, Ind.

#### CIVILIZATION

B. C. MOOMAW

This much abused term is on many lips these days, and is made to do strange service for many causes in out-of-the-way places of the world. For example, the German Emperor, addressing his troops upon the point of embarking for China, instructed them to "spare nobody, to make no prisoners, to open the way for civilization once for all and find a path for Christianity in that far-off country." This is civilization with a vengeance, and yet to the mind of this warlike potentate it must appear in an eminently practical light. Compared with the slow processes of moral suasion how admirably direct and efficient is the work of a conquering army. The heathen are exterminated, and room is thereby made for decent folks, civilized beer drinkers and pious war lords. Your idolatrous and contumacious Chinaman who resists the Gospel for years, stops a civilizing bullet, and the worry ends. A way is opened for Christianity; it smells of blood and makes slippery walking for a time, but the church, as the church goes these days, marches gaily on and takes possession of the land. Christ said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, but now is my kingdom not from hence." All this is changed. We have machine guns now, and the heathen had better look out. Armed with its superior weapons and its saloon, our Christian civilization goes forth to open the way for Christ, and what we can't convert we can exterminate in short order. The ideas of Christianity which prevailed during the crusades seem to have come back, when the long arm of the cross is ground to sharpness, so that it becomes a sword.

Who is responsible for this strange pervers-